

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01506 131215Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-05

TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 IOE-00 /089 W

-----074438 131218Z /45

P 131110Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1257

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD, MI

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES-UNCTAD COMMON FUND
MEETING, NOV 7-DEC2

REF: (A) STATE 179166 (B) STATE 191312 (C) STATE 214220

1. GOM DOES NOT PLAN TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. (NO ONE ATTENDED MARCH 7-APRIL 1 SESSION AND GOM HAS NO RESIDENT REPRESENTAION IN GENEVA.) MALAWI'S INTEREST IN THE COMMON FUND IS FOCUSED ON FUND'S POTENTIAL TO FINANCE BUFFER STOCKS AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT.
2. RE REFTEL B PARA 3C, GOM WOULD PROBABLY LISTEN SYMPATHETICALLY TO VIEWS OF U.S. EXPERT. HOWEVER, GIVEN THEIR NON-PARTICIPATION IN MEETING AND LACK OF INFLUENCE WITHIN GROUP OF 77, EXPERT'S EFFORTS MAY BE MORE PRODUCTIVE ELSEWHERE.
3. RESPONSIBLITY FOR GOM'S POLICY ON COMMON FUND PRIMARILY RESTS WITH MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM ALTHOUGH DRAFT POSITION PROBABLY CLEARED WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET'S ECONOMIC PLANNING DIVISION. FINAL APPROVAL OF THIS, OR ANY SIGNIFICANT POLICY FORMULATED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, IS USUALLY MADE BY LIEF PRESIDENT BANDA. WITHIN MINISTRY OF TRADE, WEDDINGTON C. SALIMA, CHIEF TRADE OFFICER, IS THE COMMODITY EXPERT. AS THE GOM SEES THE COMMON

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FUND AS A COMMODITY ISSUE RATHER THAN FINANCIAL ONE, SALIMA PLAYS THE KEY ROLE IN POLICY FORMATION.

4. SALIMA HAS BEEN WITH THE TRADE MINISTRY SINCE 1967 (UNUSUALLY LONG SERVICE IN ONE MINISTRY BY MALAWI STANDARDS) AND IS WELL VERSED IN UNCTAD ISSUES, HAVING ATTENDED THE NEW DELHI AND NAIROBI UNCTAD CONFERENCES. HE IS OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY IN MEETINGS WITH AMERICANS,

ALTHOUGH HE CAN BE LESS FRANK IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN MALAWI'S TRADE PICTURE. AS THE GOM'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE NEVOTIATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (WHICH ARE OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO MALAWI), SALIMA'S VIEWS ON THE COMMON FUND WILL BE INFLUENCED BY HIS PERCEPTION OF THE FUND'S POTENTIAL UTILITY IN FINANCING SUGAR BUFFER STOCKS.

5. GOM'S CURRENT LIMITED INTEREST IN THE COMMON FUND COULD BE HEIGHTENED IF THE FUND BEGAN TO EMERGE AS A VIABLE INSTITUTION. ALONG WITH SUGAR, MALAWI COULD PARTICIPATE IN INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS FOR TEA AND POSSIBLY COTTON. STEVENSON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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